

Music development plan summary: Eastlea Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Emma Beeston
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Northumberland Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady music school

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

- Our music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), which is non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 (and will be taught by tutors from Northumberland Music).
- In EYFS music is woven throughout their curriculum and in Reception is prioritised in adult directed sessions by a Northumberland Music specialist (at a subsidised cost of £2057).
- Pupils in KS1 and KS2 receive music tuition for two terms per year led by a music specialist on a carousel basis (this includes class based music and instrumental tuition and is purchased through a service level agreement with Northumberland Music at a subsidised cost of £6499.)

- In addition to this, Reception and KS1 classes have a weekly 20 minute hymn singing assembly.
- At Eastlea our curriculum music input is led by two tutors from Northumberland Music, focusing on the progression of skills and knowledge of the elements of music. In Reception/KS1 a 'building blocks' scheme is used to support early music development. In Key Stage 2 the pupils have a weekly input of 50 minutes of class based music and/or whole class instrumental tuition (violins).

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Rocksteady music school bands:

- Children in Reception, KS1 and KS2 have the opportunity to join our Rocksteady bands which rehearse weekly on Tuesday mornings in the school hall. Instruments include electric and bass guitar, drums, keyboards and vocals.
- We have 5 bands in school – mixed year groups.
- This is an inclusive programme that is accessible to all pupils, supports wellbeing and contributes to academic progress.
- Children can work towards a 'Music performance in bands' certificate – an Ofqual regulated qualification from Rocksteady and Trinity College London.

Singing:

- Children in KS2 have the opportunity to join our Singing Club led by a specialist tutor from Northumberland Music. The sessions last for one hour on a Wednesday after school and take place in the school hall.
- The singing group caters for a range of abilities and enthusiasm for singing is the only requirement to be able to join.

Violin progression group:

- A group of 10 children in upper KS2 have the opportunity to further develop their instrumental skills on the violin by attending a half hour session with our instrumental tutor from Northumberland Music.
- The group is targeted at those who show a particular aptitude for music and allows them to practise skills in school which are then developed at home – with permission granted to borrow the instruments from school.

Funding:

- Rocksteady provides weekly band tuition funded by parents. A monthly payment scheme arranged between parents/carers and Rocksteady is set up with costs currently £44.68 per month. Some pupils can be supported via a school bursary scheme to be able to attend the sessions at a reduced cost.
- Our singing club is funded through a Service Level Agreement with Northumberland Music and costs the school £1552 per year (including 3% discount).
- The violin progression group is also funded via a separate Service Level Agreement with Northumberland Music and costs £534 per year (including 3% discount).

N.B. These SLA costs are subsidised by the Northumberland Music as part of an early bird / long standing purchase deal.

- Each Christmas all classes from Reception up to Year 6 have the opportunity to watch a pantomime at Newcastle Theatre Royal on our Christmas Golden Day. This is funded by school at an approximate cost of £3000 (with an additional £1550 for transport). Funds raised at our Christmas Fair by the Friends of Eastlea are used to support these costs.

Part C: Musical performances

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Singing:

- Use of singing to support learning for example phonics, timetable songs, MFL and across the wider curriculum.
- Whole school singing takes place weekly at the Friday assembly.
- Reception/KS1 singing practice weekly on a Monday.

Music club concerts:

- Rocksteady bands perform to the whole school and parents of the children involved once per term on a Tuesday morning. The rest of the school enjoy the live music and watching their peers.
- Each term the KS2 singing club and violin progression group perform a concert to their parents/families on a Wednesday after school. This is a culmination and celebration of the work they have been doing the previous term and involves ensemble and sometimes solo performances.

Other performances:

- Key Stage Christmas productions each December – this includes performances for the rest of the school and 6 performances in total for parents, family members and other visitors.
- Year 6 visit the local shopping centre to entertain shoppers by singing Christmas carols each December. This is also a fundraising event for the class enterprise fund.
- The whole school from Reception to Year 6 visit the Theatre Royal to attend the pantomime each December.
- An end of Year 6 celebration leavers event takes place in July each year. The class perform a leavers song for parents, staff, governors and their peers.
- Once every couple of years a group of Year 5/Year 6 musicians are invited to take part in the 'Cramlington Play Day' event in June which involves a day of instrumental/vocal rehearsals at the local secondary school and a performance to parents in the Hub at Cramlington Learning Village.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

Music in curriculum carousel:

- The subjects involved in the Wednesday afternoon curriculum carousel are regularly reviewed. For the last two years the number of subjects involved has been increased and the music input fine-tuned to maximise the input from our Northumberland Music tutors. Although the amount of music curriculum time has been reduced the development of skills has not been impacted and in fact we are starting to notice an improvement in skill levels due to continuity of provision and expertise offered by the music tutors.

Sharing work with parents:

- We aim to record some end of half term/term violin group 'performances' which are shared with parents on Seesaw following the whole class instrumental lessons. We are looking for more opportunities to share the class-based music making with parents.

Opportunities for additional music making/live music:

- Opportunities sometimes arise for musicians to take part in additional performance opportunities and if these become available children will be encouraged to take part, *e.g. Northumberland Music ensembles and choral events.*

- Any opportunities for theatre visits or music concerts will be explored to broaden children's experience, e.g. in October 2025 the children thoroughly enjoyed a day spent with the Ugandan Pearl of Africa children's choir/dancers which children to explore another culture through music and dance, as well as performing as part of a concert for parents in the evening.

Active Music Golden Day:

- In October 2026 we are planning an end of half term Active Music themed Golden Day event – this will involve the children in various music making experiences led by our own staff members, tutors from Northumberland Music and an MFL specialist.

Further information (optional)

Northumberland Music

[Northumberland Music | Northumberland County Council](#)

Rocksteady Music school

[Home - Rocksteady Music School](#)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.